

*In
Search
of ...*

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the
**Wellsburg
church of Christ**
Which meets at:
**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422**

We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Classes* 10:00 AM

AM Worship 10:45 AM

PM Worship 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM

(* Bible Classes for All Ages)

Today's Sermon:

*Dating the
Church?*

*Audio CD's are available
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:
www.truthandright.org*

*If you have any questions regarding
what we teach and practice, please
feel free to ask*

"I'm Too Busy For Church"

Jonathan Perz

via-The Auburn Beacon, Aug. 15, 2010, Auburn, AL

It is Sunday morning—time to assemble with the saints of our Lord. Believe it or not, for many, this is a moment of decision. There are so many things around the house calling your name—lawn mowing, repairing the thing-a-ma-jig, washing the car, etc. As all of these things flash through your mind, the Lord calls. You may actually find yourself asking, "Whose call do I heed?"



Do you decide on Sunday morning, or evening, or Wednesday evening, whether or not you are "going to church?" Do you find that chores around the house, fishing, hunting, watching sports, working, or other things, win out over the Lord? What a shameful predicament many place themselves in!

It is shameful because, some day, when the Lord returns again, you will have to explain to Him why you said, "I'm too busy for church." It is written, *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done*

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in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Though it is true that attending church is not the 'end all' of Christianity, it is nevertheless commanded (Hebrews 10:24-25). Any Christian who must ask himself at the appointed time if he is going to assemble with the saints needs to realize the dilapidated condition of his soul. For the convicted, faithful, zealous Christian, such an appointment is automatic! There is never a doubt, only the faithful fact that he will be there when the saints meet!

When one is too busy to go to church, what they really say is: "I'm too busy for my brethren (Hebrews 10:24-25)" and "I'm too busy for the Lord (Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 25:40, 45)." If one is too busy for these, he is too busy for heaven! The next time you find yourself thinking, "I'm too busy for church;" remember what that translates into—"I'm too busy for heaven!"

The Christian is a Spiritual Optimist

*By—W. Frank Walton
via-The Auburn Beacon, Aug. 15, 2010*

Do you consider your basic outlook in life as an optimist or a pessimist?

Optimism is defined as: "a disposition or tendency to look on the more favorable side of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome" or "the belief that good ultimately predominates over evil in the world" (Random House Unabridged Dictionary). Pessimism is defined: "the tendency to see, anticipate, or emphasize only bad or undesirable outcome, results, conditions, problems, etc." and also "the belief that the evil and pain in the world are not compensated for by goodness and happiness" (ibid).

A pessimist will try to justify their pessimism by saying, "I'm just a realist." I counter this by an optimist is a "constructive realist,"

who doesn't ignore problems but always sees good potential or possibilities. A pessimist sees more limiting problems than opportunities. I believe the Bible teaches that you cannot a strong believer in God and be a spiritual pessimist.

The 10 spies that discouraged the Israelites from entering Canaan were spiritual pessimists! They saw obstacles (strong and giant Canaanites with heavily fortified cities) instead of opportunities of faith to trust God's power to take the land (Numbers 13:28-33). They said, "We are not able...they are too strong for us!" Their pessimistic outlook caused them to negatively exaggerate reality and see themselves as tiny, weak grasshoppers. Such negativity breed pessimistic grumbling and a defeatist attitude among the people (Numbers 14:2-4). They wanted to "play it safe" and regress, instead of make progress.

Yet, Caleb and Joshua were spiritual optimists! They lifted their outlook to take Almighty God into account! *"We shall surely overcome it....If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us....Do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us"* (Numbers 13:30; 14:8,9). Spiritual optimism thinks, "The odds don't count if God is on our side! God is greater than any obstacle we face."

Although we may have differ personality types and innate dispositions, our personality traits are molded and uplifted by Biblical faith, hope and love.

1. Optimistic Faith in God. In 1 Samuel 17, young David had optimistic faith in God. He confidently believed he could defeat Goliath, the Philistines' giant champion who dared one Israelite to fight him. *"Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God"* (1 Samuel 17:36). Yet, King Saul's army was filled with spiritual pessimists in facing Goliath's challenge. They were "dismayed" and "afraid" to take him on (1 Samuel 17:10-11,24). This pall of negativity had Saul telling David, *"You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him"* (1 Samuel 17:33). Their

pessimism thought Goliath was too big to hit, while David's optimistic faith believed he was too big to miss. Remember, "can't" never accomplished anything.

Yet, we're thrilled to hear of David's optimistic faith in the face of a threatening giant: *"This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands"* (1 Samuel 17:46-47). The faith of David, who *"became mighty in battle"* (Hebrews 11:32,34), is enshrined in faith's hall of fame to help motivate us to grow in optimistic faith. David believed the odds don't count if God is on your side.

A spiritual optimist will believe and rely on the Scriptures that encourage us to have unlimited confidence in the power and promises of God. *"With God, all things are possible"* (Matthew 19:26). The believer can do great things through God: *"All things are possible to him who believes ... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Mark 9:23; Philippians 4:13). We serve the true and living God who has infinite power: *"Nothing shall be impossible with God"* (Luke 1:3). Although there are a multitude of many more such scriptures that would choke the most stubborn pessimist, we can raise our belief level by looking away from our limitations and looking up to Almighty God in optimist faith!

We all have menacing giants to face, like worldly temptation, religious false doctrine, stubborn problems and discouraging obstacles. Yet, optimistic faith in God confidently believes they can be defeated! We believe God's message of saving souls by preaching the everlasting gospel can work today just as it did in the first century. We believe if Jesus can change our lives for the better, that He can do the same for others. We believe God's plan of reaching the world through autonomous churches of Christ can work. God's plan will work if we will work God's plan.

2. Optimistic Love for Others. We learn the power of love from our amazing, loving God (1 John 4:7-8). Love for others is sacrificial goodwill, to always act in another's best interest. A spiritual optimist will believe that love is the most powerful force in the world. It can change bitter relations into better ones. *"Love...believes all things, bears all things, hopes all things. Love never fails"* (1 Corinthians 13:7-8). Love for others will believe the best, not the worst. Love will not grow cynical or bitter, but will endure others faults to achieve, in love, a higher good for them.

When Jesus died on the cross, his costly sacrifice seemed to be mostly unappreciated. Yet, His loving sacrifice has drawn sinful men to God through the years, just as He predicted (John 12:32). His example will motivate us to act with such optimist love (1 John 3:16-18). Christ-like love can heal relationships. Love can encourage others to do better. Love can turn conflict into a constructive learning experience.

3. Optimistic Hope for the Future. People often commit suicide because they feel, based on current circumstances, that life isn't worth living. In despair, they want to escape overwhelming burdens and the discouraging futility of "hopeless" situations. The optimistic Christian, despite the current outlook in the valley of depression, will hang on to God's vision of hope.

Hope is confident expectation in the future promises of God. Through the gospel of Christ, we are assured that *"it is impossible for God to lie"* (Hebrews 6:18). The hope of forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice tells us God has invested a fortune to bring us safely to His eternal home. Hence, *"we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast"* (Hebrews 6:19). Hope lifts our outlook past the storms of life with our current problems. Whatever pain or perplexity we face, they will one day pass away in the clear, unclouded day of eternity. Hope anchors us to an eternal perspective. As C. S. Lewis observed, "All that is not connected to eternity is eternally out of date."

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Wayne Campbell
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Matthew 21:23-46
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Earl Miller
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Ken Prager
Fruit of the Vine	Earl Miller
Serve	Chaz Shaffer
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

Sunday PM

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Matthew 22:1-22
Reader	Earl Miller
1st Prayer	Ken Prager
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	Nathan Marshall

Wednesday

Announcements	Tim Henderson
Class Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Invitation	Ed Roberts
Closing Prayer	Harold Marshall

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Sick/ Poor Health:

- **Lenora Abrigg**, Nancy Morris' sister-in-law
- **Jay Glasure**, Ronald & Charlotte Lancaster's son-in-law
- **Zeda Goddard**, also her family— sons, **Dallas** and **Terry**, and daughter Tammy Garrison
- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband, is to go back soon to have a stint put in for the other kidney.
- **Jerry & Dottie Henderson** are in Medicine Hat, Canada. After this week they will begin the journey home.
- **Becky Johnston** will be having surgery Sept. 24th
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Ronald Lancaster** went to the emergency room last night and was being held for observation.
- **Alfred & Mary Jane Myers**
- **Paula Prager** as she continues to deal with a difficult pregnancy
- **Jimmy Roberts**, Ed & Marie's son
- **Jim Roberts**, Ed Roberts' father
- **Marie Roberts**
- **Kris Shane**
- **Gabriel Taylor**, 4 year old great grandson of Don & Phyllis, dealing with cancer.

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Ann's Retreat:

- Josephine Clow

Brightwood Center:

- Shirley Campbell

Valley Haven:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap
- Ann Rudolph

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call:
304-914-2262 or 304-914-2263